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NOAA Solicits Proposals for 2009 Atlantic Sea Scallop Research Set-Aside Program

NOAA Fisheries Service is now accepting proposals under the Atlantic Sea Scallop (Scallop) Research Set-Aside (RSA) Program for scallop related research activities to be conducted in the 2009 scallop fishing year (March 1-, 2009 – February 28, 2010). Full proposals must be received by NOAA's Northeast Fisheries Science Center on or before 5 p.m. EDT, August 25, 2008.

NOAA, based on the New England Fishery Management Council's recommendations, set aside 2-percent of the 2009 scallop quota to fund scallop related research proposals and compensate participating vessels through the sale of scallops harvested under the research set-aside quota. Priority will be given to scallop research proposals that include, among other things, industry-based surveys of access areas and areas not surveyed by NOAA; scallop biology; means for reducing groundfish bycatch; methods for reducing habitat impacts; habitat characterization research; identification of sources and ways to minimize sea turtle interactions; improved information concerning sea scallop abundance, distribution, size composition and density of sea scallops; scallop and area management research; research projects that would help calibrate the transition of the federal dredge surveys. Further details about research priorities can be found under the Program Priorities section of the Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO). No Federal funds are provided for research under the Scallop RSA Program.

For complete details on the 2009 Scallop RSA Program, and how to apply, please visit the Grants Online website at <http://www.grants.gov>.

- Under "Quick Links" for applicants (right side of page) click on "Grant Search".
- Search for Funding Opportunity Number NMFS-NEFSC-2009-2001472.

The Federal Register notice announcing the 2009 Scallop RSA Program and the FFO announcement are also posted on the Northeast Regional Office's website at: <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/hotnews/>.

NOAA understands and predicts changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and conserves and manages our coastal and marine resources. Visit <http://www.noaa.gov>.

NOAA Fisheries Service is dedicated to protecting and preserving our nation's living marine resources and their habitat through scientific research, management and enforcement. NOAA Fisheries Service provides effective stewardship of these resources for the benefit of the nation, supporting coastal communities that depend upon them, and helping to provide safe and healthy seafood to consumers and recreational opportunities for the American public.